

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 /101 W
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3864
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USCONSUL CAPETOWN IMMEDIATE 3584

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1756

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UN, XA, US, SF
SUBJECT: BRIEFING OF UNSYG WALDHEIM ON VIENNA AND CAPETOWN TALKS

REF: (A) STATE 123224, (B) USUN 1708

SUMMARY: IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADORS YOUNG AND MCHENRY'S BRIEF-
ING ON THE VICE PRESIDENT'S TALKS WITH VORSTER IN VIENNA AND THE
STATUS OF THE CAPETOWN TALKS ON NAMIBIA, UNSYG WALDHEIM SHOWED
PARTICULAR INTEREST IN THE PROJECTED UN ROLE IN THE NAMIBIAN
SETTLEMENT. HE SUGGESTED NAMIBIAN COMMISSIONER AHTISAARI AS THE
BEST CANDIDATE FOR SYG SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN THE TRANSITIONAL
PERIOD IN NAMIBIA. HE INDICATED THAT HIS OFFICE WAS GENERATING
SOME STUDY OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF THE UN INVOLVEMENT. END
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SUMMARY.

1. AMBASSADORS YOUNG AND MCHENRY CALLED ON UNSYG
WALDHEIM JUNE 2 TO BRIEF HIM ON THE VICE PRESIDENT'S
MEETING WITH VORSTER IN VIENNA AND THE STATUS OF THE
CAPETOWN TALKS WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT ON
NAMIBIA. (UK'S AMBASSADOR MURRAY READILY CEDED HIS

ASSIGNMENT TO BRIEF THE SYG IN LIGHT OF PLANNED MEETING WITH WALDHEIM ON VIENNA TALKS.) THE SECRETARY GENERAL EXPRESSED WARM APPRECIATION FOR THE BRIEFING AND STRONG SUPPORT FOR OUR VARIOUS NEGOTIATING EFFORTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE SAID HE BELIEVES THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS GENERALLY POSITIVE TOWARD THESE EFFORTS, DESPITE SOME SKEPTICISM THAT THEY CAN ACTUALLY SUCCEED.

2. WALDHEIM FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON THE QUESTION OF UN INVOLVEMENT IN THE NAMIBIAN SETTLEMENT. HE SAID THAT THIS WAS A CRITICAL ISSUE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND ONE ON WHICH WE MUST PROCEED WITH EXTREME CARE. HE SAID HIS PAST EXPERIENCE IS THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS TEND TO KEEP DEFINITIONS OF SUCH THINGS AS A UN ROLE VAGUE AND THEN MANIPULATE IMPLEMENTATION TO SUIT THEIR PURPOSES. ON THIS ISSUE, CARE IS PARTICULARLY ESSENTIAL BECAUSE SWAPO'S SAM NUJOMA WAS CONCERNED WITH THE POINT IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH WALDHEIM IN MAPUTO.

3. WALDHEIM SAID NUJOMA OF COURSE STIPULATED, AMONG OTHER CONDITIONS, THAT NAMIBIAN ELECTIONS MUST BE UNDER UN CONTROL. SYG SAID HE HOPED THAT THE GROUP OF FIVE CONTACT GROUP WOULD FIND OUT FROM THE SOUTH AFRICANS IN THEIR NEXT TALKS IN CAPE TOWN JUST WHAT THEY ENVISAGE AS THE UN ROLE IN THE TRANSITIONAL POLITICAL PROCESS. MCHENRY SAID THE SYG'S REPRESENTATIVE IN NAMIBIA MUST BE ABLE TO SATISFY HIMSELF AT EVERY STEP THAT THE PROCESS IS FAIR AND IS CONSISTENT WITH SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 385. YOUNG RAISED THE RELATED FACET OF A ROLE FOR THE COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA.
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4. WALDHEIM SAID NUJOMA COMMENTED THAT THE SYG'S REP SHOULD NOT BE SOMEONE FROM OUTSIDE THE UN SYSTEM. HE RECALLED THE DISASTROUS ESCHER MISSION OF 1972. THE SPECIAL REP SHOULD BE SOMEONE FAMILIAR WITH THE UN'S STRUCTURE, PROCEDURES AND INTERNAL POLITICS AND WITH THE SUBSTANTIVE HISTORY OF THE NAMIBIAN PROBLEM. WALDHEIM SAID HE HAD BEEN THINKING THAT NAMIBIAN COMMISSIONER AHTISAARI MIGHT BE THE BEST CHOICE FOR THIS JOB. AHTISAARI IS KNOWLEDGEABLE, BALANCED AND COMPETENT (UNLIKE HIS PREDECESSOR), AND HE HAS THE CONFIDENCE OF SWAPO AND THE SYG'S OFFICE. WALDHEIM ALSO THOUGHT HE SHOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE WESTERN AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE UN INTERESTED IN THE PROBLEM. APPOINTING AHTISAARI WOULD SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF A ROLE FOR THE COUNCIL, SINCE AHTISAARI COULD CONTINUE TO WEAR TWO HATS IN RELATION TO THE NAMIBIAN PROBLEM. WALDHEIM SAID HE HAD ANOTHER TWO OR THREE NAMES HE COULD PUT FORWARD IF AHTISAARI WERE UNACCEPTABLE FOR SOME REASON (HE MENTIONED THE NEW FINNISH PERM REP PASTINEN FOR ONE), BUT HE THOUGHT AHTISAARI WOULD BE A PARTICULARLY APT CHOICE. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE

WESTERN FIVE ATTEMPT TO SOUND OUT THE SOUTH AFRICANS ON
THIS IDEA DURING THE COURSE OF THEIR UPCOMING TALKS IN
CAPETOWN.

5. MCHENRY SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IF THE SYG
WOULD STIMULATE SOME CONCRETE THINKING IN THE SECRETARIAT
ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE UN INVOLVEMENT IN NAMIBIA. BEYOND
THE SELECTION OF A SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, THERE ARE MANY
DETAILED QUESTIONS THAT WILL HAVE TO BE PLANNED. YOUNG
SUGGESTED IT MIGHT EVEN BE USEFUL IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH
THE SAG AND OTHER PARTIES TO HAVE IN HAND A PRELIMINARY UN
STUDY OF ITS ROLE, RATHER THAN WAITING UNTIL THE NEGOTIATIONS
PRODUCED AN URGENT NEED FOR SUCH PLANNING. WALDHEIM ACKNOWLEDGED
THE UTILITY OF SOME WORK ON THIS AND SAID HE HAD ORDERED THAT
A STUDY BE STARTED.

6. WALDHEIM REFERRED TO THE LIKELY NEED FOR SOME KIND OF
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PEACEKEEPING FORCES AS PART OF THE UN ROLE AND SAID THEY COULD
BE ORGANIZED, DEPENDING ON SOUTH AFRICAN ACCEPTANCE.
YOUNG

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